



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re Application of:**

Pan et al.

**Serial No.:** 09/614,113

**Filed:** July 12, 2000

**For:** METHODS OF FORMING A GATE  
STACK THAT IS VOID OF SILICON  
CLUSTERS WITHIN A METALLIC  
SILICIDE FILM THEREOF (as amended)

**Confirmation No.:** 1710

**Examiner:** D. Deo

**Group Art Unit:** 1765

**Attorney Docket No.:** 2269-2915.3US  
(96-0149.02/US)

**Notice of Allowance Mailed:**

July 11, 2003

**Express Mail Mailing Label No.:** EV 326922977 US

**Date of Deposit with USPS:** October 9, 2003

**Person making Deposit:** Christopher Haughton

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Final Office Action mailed on April 8, 2003 (Paper No. 19), the Examiner indicates that "[c]laims 6,7 are allowable because prior art doesn't describe depositing the dielectric cap over the metallic film is effected at a T sufficiently low to maintain the metallic silicide film in the non-annealed state or to preclude formation of silicon clusters in the metallic silicide film."

The Examiner further indicates that “[c]laims 17-22 are allowed because prior art doesn’t describe depositing the dielectric cap over the metallic film is effected at a T sufficiently low to maintain the metallic silicide film in the non-annealed state.”

Applicants concur with the reasons as stated by the Examiner insofar as they comprise a summary, and are exemplary and not limiting. However, claims 6 and 7, as presented in independent form in the amendment filed July 8, 2003, include other and different language than that specified by the Examiner. Further, independent claims 17 and 19 also include other and different language than that specified in the Final Office Action (Paper No. 19).

The allowed dependent claims (*i.e.*, claims 18 and 20 through 22) include other and further features and elements as well.

Additional reasons for the patentability of claims 6, 7 and 17 through 22 have previously been advanced by Applicants during prior prosecution.

Accordingly, the scope of the claims must be determined from the literal language of each as a whole, as well as equivalents thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



Tawni L. Wilhelm  
Registration No. 47,456  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
TRASKBRITT  
P.O. Box 2550  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550  
Telephone: 801-532-1922

Date: October 9, 2003  
TLW/ps:rh  
Document in ProLaw



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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

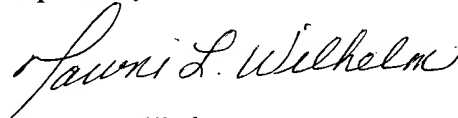
Applicants submit herewith Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal for the above-captioned application and a check in the amount of \$1,345.00 in payment therefor plus five (5) copies of the patent when issued.

Serial No.: 09/614,113

Also, enclosed is an Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.312(a) (32 pages), plus attached Replacement Sheet of Drawings and Annotated Sheet Showing Changes Made; Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance (2 pages); and Fee Addressee for Receipt of PTO Notices Relating to Maintenance Fees (2 pages).

Applicants understand that no additional fees are required. However, if the Office determines that any comparison fees or other additional fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fees to TraskBritt Deposit Account No. 20-1469. A copy of this Transmittal Letter is enclosed for deposit account charging purposes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tawni L. Wilhelm  
Registration No. 47,456  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
TRASKBRITT  
P.O. Box 2550  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550  
Telephone: 801-532-1922

Date: October 9, 2003

TLW/ps:rh

Enclosures: Part B - Issue Fee Transmittal  
Check No. 19499 in the amount of \$1,345.00  
Copy of Transmittal Letter  
Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.312(a) (32 pages), plus attached  
Replacement Sheet of Drawings and Annotated Sheet Showing Changes  
Made  
Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance (2 pages)  
Fee Addressee for Receipt of PTO Notices Relating to Maintenance Fees (2 pages)

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